

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 61, line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

In another alternative embodiment, known prion sequences or other SCHAG amino acid sequences are modified, *e.g.*, by addition, deletion, or substitution of individual amino acids; or by repeating or deleting motifs known or suspected of influencing fibril-forming propensity. To form novel prion sequences, modifications to increase the number of polar residues (glutamine, asparagine, serine, serine, tyrosine) are specifically contemplated, with modifications that increase glutamine and asparagine content being highly preferred. [See Depace *et al.*, *Cell*, 93:1241-1252 (1998), incorporated herein by reference.] In a preferred embodiment, the alterations are effected by site directed mutagenesis or *de novo* synthesis of encoding polynucleotides, followed by expression of the encoding polynucleotides.